

MOVING FORWARD

RETAIL AND COMMERCE

IN THE EARLY 1900S, Bloomington was "a Sunday afternoon ride in the country" with a profusion of vegetable stands and private picnic grounds. In town, people purchased their goods at the corner of Cedar and Old Shakopee Road at **J.J. SCOTT'S GROCERY**.

Today retail is thriving in Bloomington. The **MALL OF AMERICA** continues to be an international destination. Retail venues are also being renewed in various neighborhood centers throughout Bloomington, such as the northeast corner of France Avenue and Old Shakopee Road, now home to business and retail center, **The Point**.

One hundred years later, Bloomington returned to its roots with the **Farmers Market**, where residents can again purchase fresh and locally grown produce. The Farmers Market debuted last summer; in just 14 weeks more than 20,000 people enjoyed shopping on Saturdays in the parking lot of Civic Plaza.



PUBLIC SAFETY

ON APRIL 8, 1947, the Town Council voted for the official start-up of the Bloomington Fire Department. Only a few years later, the community was on the verge of a population explosion and many citizens felt the burgeoning metropolitan community needed a police force. In 1953, after heated debate, the Town Board appointed Clay Nord as police chief and **HIRE THREE POLICE OFFICERS** from Bloomington's constable system to form the Police Department.

Today Public Safety is still about people and keeping our streets safe, but it is also about emergency preparedness. See page 3. To stay prepared, the City has adopted new technology, such as **LAPTOP COMPUTERS** for all patrol vehicles to enable officers to generate information and reports rapidly from anywhere in the field.



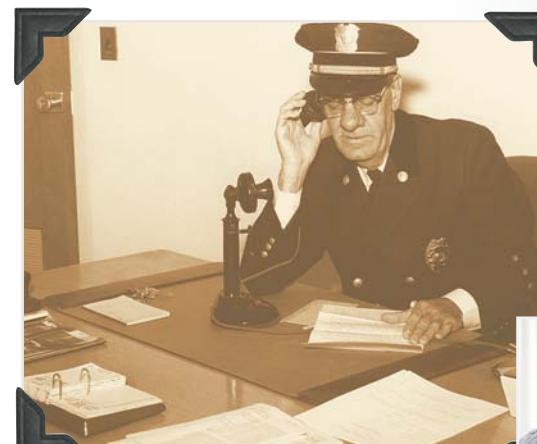
HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

IN 1959, contaminated wells were replaced with an \$8.8 million water and sewage system. At the same time, the City signed a 30-year water purchase agreement with the City of Minneapolis. In 1969, it became clear that the water available from Minneapolis would not meet Bloomington's needs, so the City developed its own local water supply and treatment plant. The City Council approved the project in 1971 and the plant became operational in 1974. The plant currently processes more than 14 million gallons of water per day.

COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMUNITY

BLOOMINGTON'S UNOFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER IRV NORLING worked closely with the Bloomington Police Department in the 1950s and 60s, see photo right. He will be remembered for his ability to capture touching and often humorous images of Bloomington life. One way the City **ANSWERED RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS** almost 50 years ago was by using a rotary telephone, a pen and a sheet of paper.

Today City communications have evolved. We now use technology such as a state-of-the-art 911 emergency system, along with computer technology such as **Ask the City** which serves residents 24/7 by providing a concise way to ask a question, report a complaint and get resolution quickly. While online, residents may search for answers to the most frequently asked questions, submit specific questions and start a service ticket. A service request may be anything from fixing a pothole to investigating a noise complaint. By staying on the cutting edge of 21st century technology, Bloomington offers residents new and innovative services.



TRANSPORTATION INNOVATION

TRAVELING MEANT taking a **HORSE AND BUGGY** down a dirt road in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Few but the very wealthy had automobiles.

Today transportation access is still an important asset and the City is focused on capacity improvements. Similar to Penn Avenue at I-35W intersection project completed in 2003, the **Lyndale Avenue interchange** will begin in September 2008. Open for the holidays, the bridge over I-494 is scheduled to close January 2009 and reopen before December 2009. At the same time, the **76th Street interchange at I-35W** will be under construction. These projects will set the stage for the reconstruction of I-35W and I-494.

Today's train is **LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT** (LRT). A **parking ramp** at the 28th Avenue LRT Station is scheduled to open in August. The five-level ramp with

1,450 spaces replaces a 300-space surface lot south of the LRT tracks. A collaboration between the City, Port Authority and Met Council, the \$24 million project is funded by a federal grant, Met Transit funds and a Port Authority bond sale.

In 2009, an additional **LRT station at American Boulevard and 34th Avenue** will be constructed. Part of the original alignment, rerouting the line to the Mall of America delayed this station's construction. Along with the LRT, expanded bus service and route changes provide more travel options for those who live and work in Bloomington.



1981

Last Twins baseball game at Metropolitan Stadium is played.



1992

Mall of America opens at site of old Met Stadium.



1995

First River Rendezvous takes place at Pond-Dakota Mission Park.